

ST. PETER IN CHAINS • ARDROSSAN
'Family of Parishes'
ST. BRIDE'S • WEST KILBRIDE



14th Sunday of the Year [A]

5th July 2020

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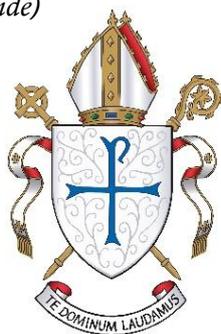
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**St. Peter's in Chains,
 and St. Bride's,
 are Parishes
 in the RC Diocese of
 Galloway.
 Scottish Charity
 Registration Number:
 SC 010576**



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

Introduction

Today we hear a very familiar – and very comforting – passage from the Gospel: Jesus praises the innocence of children, and then invites us all to take his yoke on our shoulders. Jesus is the gentle one, who aids us and brings us rest. In our prayers today let us think of our burdens, at home or work or school, and consider how we can let the gentle Jesus help us as we accept his yoke.

Gospel Reading Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

Reflection

"Shoulder my yoke" is probably one of the Lord's more famous sayings – but when did we last stop to think what it actually means? A yoke is a device which ties two beasts of burden together – oxen, donkeys, camels, horses – so that they can share the task of pulling a heavy weight. The image of a yoke has been used in the past to talk about oppression or enslavement – we are forced to do things we do not want to do. But the yoke of Jesus is different, if we submit to him. But there is something more: normally a yoke ties two animals together. So who is on the other side of Jesus' yoke? Surely Jesus himself! This is why his yoke is easy and the burden light – because he carries it with us. This is, after all the meaning of his whole life on this earth, even to death on the cross." So when Jesus says, "come to me, you who are overburdened," it is not just words: he is slipping into the yoke of grief, unemployment, injustice, conflict, fear and suffering, to carry side by side with us, the weights and woes of life.

Just for a laugh...

- **UNANSWERED PRAYER** - A young girl at Mass noticed that the priest always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. "Well," he began, very satisfied that this young parishioner was so observant. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.
- **BEING THANKFUL** - The Parish Priest said to a precocious six-year-old boy. "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?" The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"
- **WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?** - A parishioner from St Peter's Ardrossan was in Asda shopping and found a £20 note lying in the car park. She wasn't sure what she should do and then wondered what Jesus would do. She went back into Asda's and turned it into wine.
- **DID NOAH FISH?** - A primary school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

WEEKLY BULLETIN - If you would like to receive the weekly Bulletin and updates by email, please get in touch with the Parish Office and send us your email address. If you know of someone who would like to be included on the mailing list, please let us know. Thanks!

14th Week of the Year [A]

Sunday 5 th July	14th Sunday of the Year [A] <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes.</i>
Monday 6 th July	Memorial of St. Maria Goretti - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and Margaret Taylor (RD)</i>
Tuesday 7 th July	14th Week of the Year (A) - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and Loretta McLardy (SI)</i>
Wednesday 8 th July	14th Week of the Year - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and Peter Reilly (A)</i>
Thursday 9 th July	Feast of Our Lady of Aberdeen - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and Mary-Jane McInally (SI)</i>
Friday 10 th July	For Deliverance from the Pandemic - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and Joseph Pendleton (RD)</i>
Saturday 11 th July	Feast of St. Benedict, Abbot - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for our Parishes and Lizzie Paterson (A)</i>

A Simple Explanation of the Mass - Part V

The Mass has four parts altogether: The Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Concluding Rites. The two main parts of the Mass are the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. These two are so closely connected that they form one single act of worship. Let's look this week at the Liturgy of the Word. When the Sacred Scriptures are read in Church, God himself speaks to his people - the treasures of the Bible are opened to us. In the First Reading, God is gradually revealing himself to his Chosen People. The Responsorial Psalm helps us create an atmosphere of prayer. The Second reading is always taken from one of the Letters in the New Testament or from the Book of Revelation. They give us a glimpse into the attempts of the early Christians to follow the ways of Christ. The Proclamation of the Gospel is always about Christ and what he has said and done. We stand as an outward expression of joy for the Good News. Before the Gospel is proclaimed, all present make a threefold Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips and heart. The priest, in the Homily, shows how the Word of God is relevant to our lives. He helps them hear Christ's voice and see Christ's face in the sacred text. Having listened to the Word of God in the readings, we rise to give public witness to the faith of our Baptism as we pray the Creed. The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Bidding Prayers. We offer our prayer for persons that we will perhaps never know. Our concern for others expands our hearts and directs our love outside of ourselves.

Good Practice Suggestion: Have a look at the Sunday Readings before attending Mass.

Update of Changing Mass Times

As you know the weekend Mass times at St Peter's and St Bride's have been discussed in the Parish Pastoral Councils over the last weeks of the lockdown. It seems that the best suggestion, although a big change, will be Sunday Mass at St Bride's at 9am, followed by refreshments, and at St Peter's at 11am, followed by refreshments. The Vigil Mass at St Bride's won't start up again and the Vigil Mass at St Peter's will be half an hour earlier at 5.00pm, as parishioners seem to prefer this is winter time. Parishioners who prefer an early Mass, or who have plans for Sunday, can attend the 9am Mass at St Bride's; Parishioners who prefer a later Mass can attend St Peter's at 11am. The weekday Masses at St Peter's will stay the same, Monday to Saturday at 10am. St Bride's will also have a weekday Mass, probably on Fridays at 11.30am or 12 noon. Please pass the word to friends, neighbours and families so that Parishioners are aware of the new times. The new Mass times will begin as soon as we receive the confirmation that the Churches can re-open, probably for 25th July.

St. Peter's News

Church will be open for private prayer on
Wednesdays and Saturdays 11.30am till 12.30pm.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

You tell me of those that are hungry, those that are oppressed, and those that are unemployed. Greater than these are the sufferings of those that are lonely, and greater still are the sufferings of those that do not know Jesus Christ. Don't throw up your arms in horror at the world's sufferings, but roll up your sleeves and do something to alleviate them.

St. Brides's News

Church will be open for private prayer on
Wednesdays 11.30am till 12.30pm.

► **CHURCH OPENING** Our Church continued this week to open its door for Private Prayer. Again, some Parishioners took advantage to come along for reflective time and met Fr. Duncan. We also had a little Band of Workers doing lots of jobs, from clearing out cupboards and rooms to restoring our Easter Candle to its former glory.

► **BULLETIN NEWS** if you would like to pass on any news, or tell us of any special occasion you have celebrated, please contact us by email: howiephyllis@yahoo.co.uk or by phone: 01294 822320.

RE-OPENING OF OUR CHURCHES

It seems that our Churches can re-open for public Mass and the Services from Thursday, 23rd July. If this remains the case then our first public Masses will resume at the weekend 25th/26th July 2020, with Mass on Saturday at 10am; Vigil Mass at 5.30pm and Sunday Mass at 9am at St Bride's, and 11am at St Peter's [new Mass times]. If the social distancing remains the same, i.e. six feet, then St Bride's could hold around 24 places for Mass, and St Peter's would hold around 60 places. Families and couples can sit together. The Bishops have suspended the Sunday Obligation until the pandemic passes. This means that you can come to Mass anytime during the week or at the weekend. Since places are very restricted, it would be important for Parishioners to plan coming to Mass during the week if they can, and then it that way the numbers attending will be well within the limits. The procedures for coming to Church will be the same as for everywhere else: Wearing a face covering, using the sanitising wipes as we enter Church, sitting only in the available pews, keeping the social distance at all times, entering Church by the main entrance and leaving by the side exits. Mass itself will be a bit simpler: Only the cantor will be singing, there will be no "Gloria" or "Creed" sung or spoken, only one Reading from Holy Scripture and Holy Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass, so that the congregation can leave the Church directly afterwards. The Parish Collection will be in the plastic buckets as we enter Church [Offertory Collection] and also as we leave [Building Fund Collection]. All this is very awkward for us and causes a great deal of inconvenience and extra work and preparation. However, it is the price we will have to pay to return to our Parish Church and receive the sacraments as long as the pandemic endures. Please reassure any apprehensive Parishioners that the Church is safe for public worship; we have regular procedures for cleaning and the entire Church building is sanitised before and after use each time.

Mustard Seeds

✝ The Ragman

Before the dawn one Friday morning I noticed a young man, handsome and strong, walking the alleys of our City. He was pulling an old cart filled with clothes, and he was calling in a loud voice: "Rags! Rags! New rags for old! I take your tired rags! Rags!" "Now, this is a wonder, "I thought to myself, for the man stood six-feet-four, and his arms were like tree limbs, hard and muscular, and his eyes flashed intelligence. Could he find no better job than this, to be a ragman in the inner city? I followed him. And I wasn't disappointed. Soon the Ragman saw a woman sitting on her back porch. She was sobbing into a handkerchief, sighing, and shedding a thousand tears. Her heart was breaking. The Ragman stopped his cart. "Give me your rag," he said so gently, "and I'll give you another." He slipped the handkerchief from her eyes. She looked up, and he laid across her palm a linen cloth so clean and new that it shined. Then, as he began to pull his cart again, the Ragman did a strange thing: he put her stained handkerchief to his own face; and then HE began to weep, to sob grievously as she had done, his shoulders shaking. Yet she was left without a tear. In a little while, when the sky showed grey behind the rooftops and I could see the shredded curtains hanging out black windows, the Ragman came upon a girl whose head was wrapped in a bandage, whose eyes were empty. Blood soaked her bandage. A single line of blood ran down her cheek. Now the tall Ragman looked upon this child with pity, and he drew a lovely yellow bonnet from his cart. "Give me your rag," he said, tracing his own line on her cheek, "and I'll give you mine." The child could only gaze at him while he loosened the bandage, removed it, and tied it to his own head. The bonnet he set on hers. And I gasped at what I saw: for with the bandage went the wound! Against his brow it went a darker, more substantial blood - his own! "Rags! Rags! I take old rags!" cried the sobbing, bleeding, strong, intelligent Ragman. After that he found a drunk, lying unconscious beneath an army blanket, an old man, hunched, and sick. He took that blanket and wrapped it round himself, but for the drunk he left new clothes. And now I had to run to keep up with the Ragman. I needed to see where he was going in such haste, perhaps to know what drove him so. He climbed a hill. Then he sighed. He lay down. He pillowed his head on a handkerchief. He covered his bones with an army blanket. And he died. I sobbed myself to sleep. I can come to love that Ragman. I did not know that I slept through Friday night and Saturday and its night, too. But then, on Sunday morning, I was awakened by a violence. Light - pure, hard, demanding light - slammed against my sour face, and I blinked, and I looked, and I saw the last and the first wonder of all. There was the Ragman - no sign of sorrow nor of age, and all the rags that he had gathered shined for cleanliness. Well I lowered my head and trembling for all that I had seen, I myself walked up to the Ragman. I told him my name with shame, for I was a sorry figure next to him. Then I took off all my clothes in that place, and I said to him with dear yearning in my voice: "Dress me." He dressed me. My Lord, he put new rags on me, and I am a wonder beside him. The Ragman, the Ragman, the Christ!

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